

Message Text

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44

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAL-01 /152 W

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R 271609Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1278

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, IC

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC REACTION TO NEW YORK LOS SESSION

1. THOUGH GOI HAS NOT COMMENTED OFFICIALLY ON LATEST LAW OF SEA SESSION, STATEMENTS BY ICELANDIC LOS DELEGATES PLUS EDITORIAL REACTION HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ICELAND IS PLEASED WITH LOS TRENDS THUS FAR.

2. OF MOST INTEREST TO ICELAND WAS FACT THAT NO CHANGES OCCURRED DURING LATEST LOS ROUND IN DRAFT TEXT ON RIGHTS OF COASTAL STATES OVER 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO CHIEF ICELANDIC DELEGATE TO CONFERENCE, NO SUCH CHANGES ARE EXPECTED. THIS FACT, TOGETHER WITH WHAT ICE-
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LANDERS SEE AS ACCELERATING PACE OF UNILATERAL EXTENSION TO

200-MILE JURISDICTIONS BY OTHER STATES, IS BEING PORTRAYED HERE AS VINDICATION AND SUPPORT FOR ICELAND'S PIONEERING POLICY IN THIS AREA. OTHER ASPECTS OF LOS ARE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE TO ICELAND AND HAVE RECEIVED CORRESPONDINGLY LESS ATTENTION.

3. OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND PRESS HAVE ALSO GENERALLY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH WHAT THEY SEE AS CLEAR TREND TOWARD 200-MILE ZONE EMERGING FROM LOS CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION DIVERGE OVER IMMEDIATE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS TREND FOR ICELANDIC FISHERIES POLICY. LED BY PEOPLES ALLIANCE, OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN HAVE INVOKED LATES LOS DEVELOPMENTS AS FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR ENDING ALL BRITISH FISHING IN ICELAND'S CLAIMED WATERS WHEN CURRENT AGREEMENT WITH UK RUNS OUT DECEMBER 1, HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY SEE LOS RESULTS AS STRENGTHENING GOI HAND VIS-A-VIS UK IN ANY FUTURE DEALINGS OVER FISHING RIGHTS. HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUE TO LEAVE OPEN LOOPHOLE FOR SOME TYPE OF FURTHER AGREEMENT.
BLAKE

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